facts contained in the news item have been brought to the notice of the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 provides for meeting of certain basic needs such as housing, drinking water, latrines, urinals, washing facilities, protective clothing, creches and canteens, etc. by the employer, besides ensuring payment of minimum wages, travelling allowance, etc. Apart from urging better implementation of existing labour laws, the Government is seriously considering certain proposals to provide statutory guarantee of work of some kind of all citizens.

Inclusion of Kutch district under Desert Development Programme

*351. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat to include Kutch district in the Desert Development Programme; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Gujarat Government has submitted a memorandum to the National Committee on Drought Prone Areas Programme and Desert Development Programme wherein it has been proposed that Kutch district should be included in the Desert Development Programme.

(b) The National Committee set up to look into various aspects of the two programmes will also consider memoranda received from Gujarat Government alongwith similar memoranda received from other State Governments, hold discussions with State Governments if necessary and thereafter finalise its recommendations.

The Government will take a decision on various aspects of the programme including its coverage after the report of the National Committee is received.

Target fixed for completion of Koraput--Rayagada railway line

*352. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target date set for the completion of the construction of Koraput-Rayagada Railway line in Orissa;

(b) whether the construction of that line has been completed; and

(c) if not, what progress has been made so far in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Koraput—Machiliguda (20 Km) has been opened. Machiliguda—Rayagada (144 Km) is expected to be opened by 31-3-1991.

(c) Upto April, 1990, the physical progress is 61% and financial progress is Rs. 232.40 crores.

Losses due to cyclone in Andhra Pradesh

*353. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent cyclone has caused severe damage to the people and properties in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of people killed and injured and the estimated loss to properties so far;

(c) whether Government have offered any financial assistance to the State Government so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this assistance is in tune with the demand of the State Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the latest report received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the tentative number of people killed, injured and the estimated loss to properties according to them so far is as under :—

1. Number of people killed	976
2. Number of people injured	No information has been received from the State Government so far.
3. Loss to the properties	Rs. 792.78 crores.

(c) and (d) Andhra Pradesh State has been allocated Rs. 86.00 crores under the Calamity Relief Fund for the year 1990-91. 75% of this amount is to be provided by the Central Government as a non-Plan grant. Balance 25% is to be met by the State Government from their own resources. The Central share of Calamity Relief Fund is to be released to the State Government in 4 equal quarterly instalments. Keeping in view the severity of the situation, Central Government has released Rs. 32.25 crores to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh on 14-5-1990 towards first two quarterly instalments of the Central share of the Calamity Relief Fund. In addition, Rs. 2.00 crores have been released from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. Further, Rs. 78·00 lakhs has been released from the Indian People's Natural Calamities Trust for providing assistance to the families of the deceased persons.

(e) and (f) The State Government has requested for the release of Rs. 64·50 crores that is the entire share of the Central Government towards the Calamity Relief Fund of the State for the year 1990-91. The remaining share of the Central Government towards Calamity Relief Fund amounting to Rs. 32.25 crores will be released as soon as the amount of Rs. 32.25 crores already released is utilized by the State Government.

बिलासपुर, रायगढ़ से भोपाल तक सीधी रेल सेवा

*354. **श्री लक्खीराम अग्रवाल** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बिलासपुर और रायगढ़ के बीच 200 किलोमीटर की दूरी में किसी भी स्टेशन का भोपाल के साथ सीधा रेल-सम्पर्क नहीं है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि पूरे रायगढ़ जिले और मध्य प्रदेश के कोरबा औद्योगिक क्षेत्र में रहने वाले लोगों के लिए भोपाल तक कोई सीधी रेल सेवा उपलब्ध नहीं है;

(ग) क्या इन क्षेत्रों के निवासी पिछले कई वर्षों से सीधी रेल सेवा की मांग कर रहे हैं ; और